



W-S Prep brings home a state title

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Pastor's Easter play still very popular

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WEDNESDAY, March 20, 2008



Annie Hamlin Johnson entertained guests at her home.

CRUISIN' FOR A CAUSE

Motorcycle club to host rally to benefit heart patient

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Every day at Hanesbrands Inc., they say a prayer for Dedrick Neal.

Neal, a Hanesbrands employee for 16 years, is likely one of the most dedicated employees on staff. Before falling ill in 2003, he had never missed a day of work. The 35-year-old Carver alumnus says he dreams of rejoining his colleagues. But he can't work - not yet.

Neal underwent a heart transplant five years ago, after a bout of undetected walking pneumonia rendered his own heart virtually useless.

It was a trying time, says Neal's mother, Lisa Myers. Neal was initially too sick to complete the required evaluation and be added to the donor list. A month passed while he lay in the hospital, trying to



Photo by Layla Farmer

Dedrick Neal, right, with his mother, Lisa Myers and stepfather, Robert Myers.

regain his strength as his body rebelled against him.

Finally, he was well enough to be evaluated; doctors deemed him worthy of a transplant.

"(The doctor) called and told me he made the (donor) list," Myers remembered. "I felt so ecstatic that my son was going to get another chance."

Within two months, Neal

was the recipient of a new heart. His mother remembers the enormous relief she felt when she got the call that a heart was available.

"It took me about an hour to get to Chapel Hill that night," she said with a grin.

After six weeks of recovery, Neal returned to work at Hanesbrands. He couldn't wait to get back, Myers said.

But late last year, things began to go wrong for Neal - very wrong. Neal's body began rejecting the transplanted heart.

"We had to take him to the emergency room December 5, 2007. He was in heart failure ... he (was) code blue ... I never experienced that before," Myers said, dabbing at her eyes. She and husband Robert were escorted from the room as doctors fought to save Neal's

See Bikers on A11

Mama Marvtastic opens her heart and her home

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In the Hamlin family, purple is a tradition.

Annie Hamlin Johnson's late son, Larry Leon Hamlin, made the color the trademark hue of his National Black Theatre Festival and wore purple duds everywhere he went. By extension, Hamlin's family and friends adopted the color as a celebration of Hamlin's accomplishments and the theater festival's success.

Annie Hamlin Johnson's extensive wardrobe is filled with shades of violet and plum. Her jewelry chest is filled with trinkets the color of orchids, and on special occasions, she'll pull out one of her mulberry-

tinged hats.

But Saturday, she wore red from head to toe.

Johnson hosted an "I Said Red!" party at her home for friends and loved ones. She is among dozens of local residents who signed up to host one of the parties, which raises money for AIDS Care Service (ACS), a non-profit that provides myriad services for local people living with HIV/AIDS.

For more than eight years, Johnson has been one of the agency's most active and loyal volunteers.

"When I retired, I began going to Holly Haven (a residential facility operated by ACS for people living with the



Gray

See RED on A16



Bishop John Huntley and his wife, Deloris, stand in front of Alpha and Omega Church in East Winston.

The couple that gives back together

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Bishop John Huntley never meant to be a pastor. "I retired to play golf," he said, "but God had other plans for me."

Those "other plans" have snowballed over the last decade. Huntley inherited the pastoral role at Alpha and Omega Church and later became bishop of the six-congregation diocese.

Deloris Huntley, his wife of 45-years, runs the thriving Alpha and Omega Church Family Institute. Mrs. Huntley is the former director of Family Development at the Winston-Salem Urban League. At her husband's urging, she gave up her career to found the institute in 2002.

"I've enjoyed it; I've not looked back," she said. "It has really given me an opportunity to work with ... the entire person, the entire family."

Alpha and Omega serves a modest congregation of approximately 35 members. Yet its roster of outreach services would rival that of many, much larger organizations.

"I think this is an ideal church," Deloris Huntley commented. "We do a lot in the community ... and to me, this is what a church is supposed to do."

In response to the community's needs, Mrs. Huntley oversees a variety of free programs. Tutoring, victim assistance, parenting, nutrition and cooking classes are all offered through the institute.

"I don't know where to stop," she confessed with a laugh. "This is something I enjoy doing."

See Huntleys on A4

It's lights out for program that helps young people

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Last week, just days after David Moore was honored for his efforts to keep young people off the streets, the lights went out at his auto body shop.

Moore uses South Side Rides to tutor young people in auto body repair. His work has been credited with giving young people a positive outlet and a means to make a lucrative living. Many graduates of his program have landed jobs at auto shops throughout the city. Moore was among more than a dozen people honored recently at The Chronicle's Community Service Awards Gala.

"I'm changing these guys' lives by teaching this trade, keeping them off the street and they're



Photo by Todd Luck

Diego Victor works on a car.

getting jobs," said Moore, who started the program after a two-year stint in prison for drug possession.

But Moore's auto body shop has had a head-on collision with the City of Winston-Salem, which maintains that the shop does not comply with ordinances. The power was shut off last week at the Wood Street shop by the city.

This is the third time that the city has cut the power at Southside Rides because of ordinance violations, according to Dan Dockery, an assistant inspections director. The power was also killed in August 2005 and December 2006.

At that site, the city said that there was improper storage of hazardous materials and spraying (painting) in an area that wasn't code compliant. The city gave Moore a grant to help him build a

See Southside on A13

FAMILIAR FACE, NEW PLACE



Photo Todd Luck

Pam Peoples-Joyner is staying busy as the new executive director of the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice. The veteran non-profit agency professional started the job in January and is already making progress. Read more about Peoples-Joyner and the agency on page A12.



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